

nicholasmarros@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Marros,

Thank you for your email to EPA Administrator Wheeler on Nov. 12, 2020 regarding Oxitec's experimental use permit.

EPA conducted an [HYPERLINK

"https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbeta.regulations.gov%2Fdocument%2FEPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0359&data=04%7C01%7CPiper.Maya%40epa.gov%7C6c229102cc7c413e235e08d88281f4b3%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637402841958031261%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=usOHIWiT8Ls8RDJaOCd8h8a4KLBPVNzWPL%2BvBOnggi0%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank" \o "Original URL: https://beta.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0359. Click or tap if you trust this link."] based on the best available science and [HYPERLINK

"https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbeta.regulations.gov%2Fdocument%2FEPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0354&data=04%7C01%7CPiper.Maya%40epa.gov%7C6c229102cc7c413e235e08d88281f4b3%7C88b378b367484867acf976aacbeca6a7%7C0%7C0%7C637402841958041215%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=mdl3sdNRM9FHf3sHHvB14l2Hx2GnljSUHHhC09VmQro%3D&reserved=0" \t "_blank" \o "Original URL: https://beta.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2019-0274-0354. Click or tap if you trust this link."] before granting the experimental use permit to field test the use of genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes. EPA believes this experimental use permit has the potential to reduce mosquito populations to protect public health from mosquito-borne illnesses and does not expect the trial to have adverse effects to animals in the environment. Since only male mosquitoes will be released into the environment and they do not bite people, they will not pose a risk to people.

Oxitec is required to monitor and sample the mosquito population weekly in the treatment areas to determine how well the product works for mosquito control and to confirm that the modified genetic traits disappear from the male *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population over time. EPA has also maintained the right to cancel the experimental use permit at any point during the 24-month period if unforeseen outcomes occur.

Since Oxitec has received permission from EPA as well as state and local authorities of Monroe County, Florida, to proceed with field testing in a **controlled** environment with appropriate **safeguards** in place, Oxitec is expected to move forward with the experimental use permit.

We hope you find this information useful. Please write us again if you have additional questions.

Best regards,

[HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>"]

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency